

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update November 1 - 7, 2012

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 5:00pm

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open including HWY 395. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass) is open; no overnight parking. SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are closed due to snow; these roads may open if weather conditions allow. SR 89 (Monitor Pass) is open. Weather and road conditions can change rapidly this time of year; mountain passes and roads are subject to immediate controls and/or closures. Drivers headed to the mountains need to be sure their vehicles are equipped with chains, including those with snowtires. For California highway conditions and construction schedules, call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov. Call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237), or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads, for Nevada roads,

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK road (SR270) is open. The June Lake Loop (SR 158) is open. In Mammoth Lakes, SR 203 is open to the Mammoth Mountain Inn. Rock Creek is open. In Bishop Creek, SR 168 is open to Lake Sabrina and the South Lake road is open to South Lake. The Big Pine Canyon, Onion Valley, Whitney Portal and Horseshoe Meadow roads are open. These roads are subject to immediate controls and/or closures due to snow and/or ice.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. Hwy 190, between Cow Creek and Salt Creek, has road striping work. Drivers should expect delays of up to 30 minutes on Monday - Friday. Hwy 267, east of Scotty's Castle to the junction of US Highway 95, is closed. Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course and the West Side dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley and the Charcoal Kilns roads are open; high clearance vehicles recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County. The Big Pine Road is closed due to flood damage. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For descriptions of backcountry roads, check the website at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit/Things to Do/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: On Thursday, a weak Pacific storm moving over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave will produce breezy conditions, partly cloudy skies and a chance of showers over the Sierra Nevada crest. Starting on Friday, high pressure will build over the region bringing warmer temperatures and sunny days through the middle of next week. Highs have been in the 30s in the mountains, upper 60s in the Owens Valley and upper 80s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the teens in the mountains, to the upper 50s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the area.

BISHOP BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/drinking water) and the Pleasant Valley Pit (fee/no water) are open. Goodale Creek, Horton Creek and Crowley Lake are closed for winter.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, some campgrounds are open. Campgrounds at higher elevations are closing for the winter due to near freezing nighttime temperatures that can damage water systems.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley campgrounds have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through www.recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Wawona (SR 41 south of Yosemite Valley), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, open sites include: Furnace Creek, Sunset, Texas Spring, Stovepipe Wells, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/no fee) and Wildrose (water/no fee). Reservations for Furnace Creek campsites are available 6 months in advance for the period of 10/15 to 4/15, or for group sites, 12 months in advance online through www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 (and visit www.nps.gov/deva). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Fish & Game

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

California - Department of Transportation

National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management

Mono County

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and many lakes and streams are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2012 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting goods stores throughout the region. California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

HUNTING: General hunting season for all quail species and chukar is open. Waterfowl season for ducks, common Moorhen, American Coot and geese is open. General deer season in X-9c (primarily Inyo County east of HWY 395 and Mono County east of HWY 6) is open. The late season Buck Hunt in zone X-10 (on the Kern Plateau/G-38) and general hunt in zone D-17 (primarily San Bernardino County, including the Mojave National Preserve) are open through 11/4. Hunters should keep in mind many people use these areas for other types of sports; it's much safer to avoid hunting near developed sites, roads and trails. Hunting is not permitted in National Parks. Hunting regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy/icy terrain, freezing temperatures and sudden weather changes. Recent snow makes passes very slick. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage.

BEARS (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times!

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long and for all visitors in the Mt Whitney zone, including day hikers. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are no longer in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas. Self-issue permits can be obtained in the night boxes at the following locations: InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) and Bridgeport Ranger Station after office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, including the reservation system, please visit the web site at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: **Grand Re-Opening and Celebration of the Historic FURNACE CREEK VISITOR CENTER in Death Valley National Park: NOV 3 & 4.** The weekend has a full schedule of outstanding events, including a special appearance of the 20 Mule Team with Bobby Tanner, ranger tours, discussion programs, live music and an evening presentation on Saturday in the refurbished auditorium. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Sunday, at 1pm in the courtyard of the Visitor Center. For more information visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/deva.

OLD WEST DAYS in SHOSHONE: NOVEMBER 2 - 4, featuring a great line-up of activities, including history talks, authors, book signing, live music & dancing, Deep Pit Barbecue and an arts & craft show. On Friday, there will be a special appearance of the 20 Mule Team with Bobby Tanner. For more information, check at the Shoshone Museum or call 1-760-852-4524.

THE 63RD ANNUAL DEATH VALLEY '49ER ENCAMPMENT: NOV 7 - 11 in Death Valley National Park, commemorating the first pioneers crossing Death Valley. For a complete schedule of activities, visit the web site at www.deathvalley49ers.org.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 3:00pm. Visitors should bring warm clothing, drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six foot leash (recreation fee area).

The **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** Visitor Center, located 1 mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, is open Thursday through Monday from 9:00 to 4:30 for displays, information and a video presentation.

Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** (on SR 203) for more information on roads, fees, passes, permits, current recreation updates, trail maps and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST Visitor Center at Schulman Grove is open on weekends from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 4:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for more information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**, with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily, 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Reservations for tours are on the web at recreation.gov.

BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 11/1/12kcw